# Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT) Management Procedure

**(IPC Manual)**

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1. **AIM**

The aim of this procedure is to provide staff with the information required to perform Aseptic Non-Touch Techniques (ANTT) safely. ANTT is the practice of avoiding contamination by avoiding unnecessary contact with key sites of the patient’s body and key parts of equipment.

Only staff trained and assessed as competent in ANTT should undertake aseptic procedures.

ANTT must be applied to all clinical procedures which bypass the body’s natural defences, such as inserting or accessing intravenous (IV) devices, phlebotomy, urinary catheterisation, wound dressings, minor surgical procedures and biopsies.

Whilst it is recognised that adaptation is required when carrying out ANTT in the patient’s own home, the healthcare professional must adapt the procedure to ensure the environment is conducive to the procedure.

2. **SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all clinical staff, whether in a direct or indirect patient care role.

Adherence to the procedure is the responsibility of all Trust staff, including agency, locum and bank staff.

This policy should be considered and included in services that are contracted and commissioned by the Trust.

3. **LINK TO OVERARCHING POLICY**

3.1 Infection Prevention and Control Manual


3.2 **LINKS TO RELEVANT POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

Personal Protective Equipment and Standard Precautions:

Refer to Infection Prevention and Control Manual:


https://www.rdash.nhs.uk/54848/catheterisation-policy/

https://www.rdash.nhs.uk/26611/wound-management-policy/?doing_wp_cron=1558532911.4909880161285400390625

https://www.rdash.nhs.uk/24081/waste-policy/
4. **PROCEDURE**

4.1 **The Key Principles of ANTT**

**A** – Always ensure hands are decontaminated effectively prior to the procedure

**N** – Never contaminate key parts of sterile materials/equipment of the patients susceptible key sites

**T** – Touch non-key parts with confidence

**T** – Take appropriate Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) precautions at all times

The use of an aseptic field is required for ANTT, i.e. a clean surface or tray on which to place equipment with key parts protected, e.g. caps and covers. Best practice would be for staff to use wipeable plastic trays when carrying out ANTT procedures and to clean these with antimicrobial wipes (e.g. Clinell Universal wipes).

Key parts must remain protected at all times until the point of use, e.g. by leaving the sterile packet on a urethral catheter until the point of insertion, or a syringe cap/needle cover. The longer key parts and key sites are exposed to the environment, the greater the potential is for environmental or inadvertent touch contamination.

4.2 **Preparation of the Environment**

**Inpatient Areas:**

The ideal environment for ANTT procedures is a designated clinic room. Where this is not possible, clinical procedures may be performed at the patient bedside but they must not be undertaken within 30 minutes of bed making, dusting, floor mopping and use of commodes by other patients in a shared room, as these may contribute to airborne contamination. Windows must be kept closed during the procedure and portable fans must be turned off 30 minutes prior to the procedure and must not be used during the clinical procedure.

The immediate environment should be clean and free from visible dirt and dust and the number of people entering the area should be restricted whilst the clinical procedure is being undertaken.

The trolley/tray/surface on which equipment and consumables are placed on for procedures must be thoroughly cleaned with antimicrobial wipes (e.g. Clinell Universal wipes) and must be allowed to dry before use. If a dressing trolley is used it should be designated for this purpose only.

**Community Areas:**

The environment within some community settings such as patient homes,
schools, care homes etc. may not always be favourable for undertaking ANTT procedures. Staff may not have access to hand washing facilities, trolleys, or other equipment and satisfactory standards of environmental cleanliness cannot always be guaranteed. However, staff are responsible for ensuring that the environment allows the procedure to be carried out safely and for minimising any identified risks wherever practically possible.

In patient’s own homes, any pets present should be temporarily removed from the environment during the ANTT procedure. Other people should be asked to vacate the area to reduce the risk of contamination and to allow the privacy and dignity of the patient to be maintained.

In care homes, the client should be made comfortable in their own room prior to the procedure.

4.3 Preparation of Equipment

Single use equipment must be used whenever possible. Equipment and products should be sourced prior to the procedure and decontaminated as appropriate before the clinical procedure is performed. Products must not be used if they are out of date or damaged, or if the outer packaging is damaged.

There must not be any evidence of moisture penetration on sterile packs. If equipment has been sterilised by autoclaving the indicator tape must show visible consistent beige and brown lines. If compromised in any way it must not be used. The sterilisation label from re-usable items/packs must be placed in the patients care records or medical notes for traceability purposes.

Sterile equipment/packs must be opened using an ANTT to avoid contamination of the contents and arranged in an organised manner in the aseptic field.

4.4 Performing the Procedure

The steps for performing ANTT are as follows:

- Ensure the environment is conducive for the procedure to be undertaken
- Undertake risk assessment to determine use of non-sterile or sterile gloves (sterile gloves must be used where micro-organisms may be introduced to the site which could cause infection, e.g. urethral catheterisation or insertion of invasive devices)
- Decontaminate hands
- Clean trolley/tray with antimicrobial wipes (e.g. Clinell Universal wipes) and allow to dry
- Decontaminate hands
- Gather all equipment and consumables
- Check suitable for use (e.g. expiry dates and no damage)
- Don single use disposable apron
- Decontaminate hands
- If required, open dressing pack/sterile drape
- Open and prepare equipment/consumables
- Decontaminate hands
- Don gloves as dictated by risk assessment
- Perform procedure using ANTT
- Dispose of waste into appropriate waste stream
- Remove gloves and apron
- Decontaminate hands
- Clean trolley/tray
- Decontaminate hands
- Document procedure into appropriate care records

THESE STEPS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AS A FLOWCHART (see appendix 61)

5. REFERENCES


6. **APPENDICES**

*Appendices can be viewed/ downloaded from the IPC Manual’s home webpage.*

Appendix 61 - Steps for Performing ANTT